

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00337 061843Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 SCS-06 L-03 CA-01  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /045 W  
-----086995 061853Z /53  
P 061820Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9707

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 0337

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: AO, CARR, CASC  
SUBJECT: IMPRISONED US MERCENARIES

REF: A) ROME 21029, B) STATE 297393

1. MFA (RACHELE) BRIEFED US JANUARY 6 ON AMBASSADOR VECCHI'S NEW YEAR'S EVE VISIT TO ACKER AND GRILLO. VECCHI REPORTED THAT THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF BOTH PRISONERS IS GOOD, AND THAT GRILLO'S WOUNDS ARE NOW HEALED. GRILLO'S MORALE ALSO SEEMED TO BE HIGH BUT VECCHI FOUND ACKER GENERALLY DEPRESSED. VECCHI GAVE ACKER TWO LETTERS RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM HIS FATHER AND CONVEYED FATHER'S CONCERN ABOUT HIM. ACKER DID NOT SEEM TO BE INTERESTED IN CORRESPONDING WITH HIS FAMILY BUT VECCHI URGED HIM TO WRITE, IF ONLY TO TEST WORKABILITY OF NEW MAIL SYSTEM (PARA 2).

2. VECCHI EXPLAINED TO ACKER AND GRILLO PLAN NOW AGREED UPON WITH ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES FOR FLOW OF MAIL TO AND FROM PRISONERS. PRISONERS WILL GIVE MAIL TO ANGOLAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES WHO WILL PASS IT TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY WHICH WILL GIVE IT TO VECCHI. VECCHI WILL POUCH MAIL TO RACHELE WHO WILL GIVE IT TO EMBOFF. WE PRESUMABLY WOULD SEND SUCH MAIL ON TO ANGOLAN DESK. PRISONERS MAY ALSO RECEIVE MAIL THROUGH THIS PROCESS IN REVERSE.  
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WE ASSUME THAT WE WOULD GET MAIL FOR THEM FROM DEPARTMENT WHICH WE WOULD PASS ON TO RACHELE FOR ONWARD DELIVERY.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMATION OF ACCEPTABILITY OF ABOVE SYSTEM.

4. RACHELE ADDED THAT VECCHI HAS AS YET NO INFORMATION ON GEORGE GAUSS (REF B).GARDNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MERCENARIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ROME00337  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780010-1314  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780191/aaaaczbl.tel  
**Line Count:** 64  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** cb9101e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 ROME 21029, 78 STATE 297393  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3817408  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IMPRISONED US MERCENARIES  
**TAGS:** CARR, CASC, AO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/cb9101e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014